

# Circumcision of our Lord on the Eighth Day



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JANUARY 1, 2023

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
908.233.8533 [www.holytrinitywestfield.org](http://www.holytrinitywestfield.org)

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis, Presiding Priest

On this the First day of the month, we commemorate the Circumcision of our Lord on the Eighth Day. Being the Eighth Day after the Holy Nativity, we also commemorate the giving of the Name Jesus; Our Holy Father St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and his mother, St. Emelia; St. Gregory, Bishop of Nazianzus, father of St. Gregory the Theologian

Fourth Tone Ηχος Δ΄

*Click links for Scripture Readings*

Seventh Morning Gospel:	<a href="#">St. John 20:1-10</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Epistle Reading:	<a href="#">Colossians 2:8-12</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>
Gospel Reading:	<a href="#">St. Luke 2:20-21 &amp; 40-52</a>	<a href="#">Ελληνικά</a>

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** “When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished. To the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished evermore, and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.”

**Apolytikion of the Circumcision:** “In essence being God, most-compassionate Master, \* You assumed human nature without transmutation. \* Fulfilling the Law, of Your own will \* You accepted circumcision in the flesh, \* to bring an end to the shadow, and to remove the passions that cover us. \* Glory to Your benevolence, O Lord; \* glory to Your compassion; \* glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word.”

**Apolytikion of the Hierarch:** “Your proclamation went forth into all the earth, for it accepted your word, through which you taught the dogmas befitting God, you expounded on the nature of all that is, and you arranged the morals of society. A royal priesthood! Devout father Basil, intercede with Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy.”

**Apolytikion of the Church:** “Blessed are You, O Christ our Lord and God, You who made all wise the fishermen Your Apostles, sending down upon them Your Spirit, which is Holy and through their work drawing the world into Your net, glory to You Who loves mankind.”

**Kontakion:** “As the Master over all \* has undergone circumcision, \* so He cuts away the sins \* of humankind in His goodness. \* On this day, upon the world He bestows salvation. \* And on high \* does the Creator's hierarch Basil \* now rejoice, for he is known as \* a most divine and light-bearing mystic of Christ.”

Altar Donations

Altar Candles in memory of Kimon Zades†

Vigil Light in memory of Euphrosyne Levas†



## Sacraments and Rites



**Funeral:** On Tuesday, December 27, the funeral for Evelyn Connant† was held. Eternal be her memory.

### Liturgical Schedule

Thursday, January 5, Eve of Theophany; Royal Hours of Theophany, Orthros, 8:30 AM;  
Divine Liturgy & Lesser Blessing of the Waters, 10:00 AM  
Friday, January 6, **Holy Theophany**; Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy  
& Greater Blessing of the Waters, 9:30 AM  
Saturday, January 7, **Synaxis of John the Baptist**; Orthros, 8:30 AM;  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM  
Sunday, January 8, Sunday after Theophany; Orthros, 8:30 AM; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

In observance of New Year's Day and Holy Theophany, the church office will be closed on Monday, January 2, and Friday, January 6.

### *Cutting of the Vasilopita*

As the family comes together on the first day of the New Year, the Vasilopita Bread, in honor of St. Basil the Great, is cut in this manner: The head of the household makes the sign of the Cross on the Vasilopita with a knife while saying, "In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen." Then with the knife the bread is cut in the form of a Cross, first with a vertical incision and then with a horizontal incision. Pieces are cut in a specific order. The first piece is always for Christ. Some traditions have this piece wrapped and placed on the home *iconostasis*. Next pieces are for the Virgin Mary, the Panagia, then St. Basil the Great and the fourth for the poor. The head of the household then receives the next piece and then the rest of the family from oldest to youngest. Then pieces for guests, usually oldest to youngest. The person cutting the Vasilopita wishes each person, "Xronia Polla" (Many Years) or "Kali Xronia" (Good Year), while offering the pieces.

Vasilopita may be either a bread or a cake, depending on the region of Greece from which your family originated. Some regions use the recipe for Easter bread but decorate the top differently. Others make a rich, sweet cake which children seem to prefer. All versions of Vasilopita are round and include a coin. Each person who receives a piece is blessed. For the one who receives the coin, that person is doubly blessed.

## Welcome Visitors

Welcome all visitors to our parish. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope that you will be part of our family. Fr. Peter would like very much to meet you. Please visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after services to meet parishioners and receive information about the parish.

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### Epiphany Celebration with His Grace Bishop Apostolos at *The Yacht Club* on January 8

It is with great joy that His Grace Bishop Apostolos will conduct an Epiphany Celebration and the Blessing of Waters Service on Sunday, January 8 at 1:30 PM taking place on the pier of *The Yacht Club* located at 541 River Road, Edgewater, NJ. You are cordially invited to attend this service to participate in this wonderful Epiphany celebration.



## Prayer Request

A graphic with the text "Prayer Request" in a white, cursive font. The background features a golden cross with rays of light against a sunset sky over brown mountains.

Elizabeth, Steve, Demetrios, Clem, Christos, Dorothy, Paul, Bill, Thomas, John, Keti, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Keti, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, Connie, Donald, Terry, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas, Andrea, Thomas, Alexandra, Ronald, Galina, Angela, Lubove, Despina, Maria, John, Paraskevi (Parri), Dianna, Stephanie, Edward, Brian, Janeen, Cathy, James, Christine, Andrea, Molly, Anastasios, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Denise, Cloy, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa, James, Matthew, Antoinette, William, Angela, Tanner, Stefanos, Helen, Katherine, Ashley, Angela, Nick, Lindsey, Alexandria, Evdokia, Chris, Zach, Notis, Erica, Christina, Fran, Joan, Hellen, Joseph, Cleopatra, James, Rosa, George, Kathy, Stephanie, Theresa, Dorothy, Shannon

## The Circumcision and Naming of the Lord on the Eighth Day After His Birth

January 1

The eighth day following His birth, the Divine Child was presented in the Temple and circumcised according to the Law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. On this occasion, He was given the name Jesus, which the Archangel Gabriel announced to the All-Holy Virgin Mary. The Old Testament circumcision was the prototype of the New Testament baptism. The circumcision of our Lord shows that He received upon Himself the true body of man and not just seemingly, as was later taught of Him by heretics. Our Lord was circumcised because He also wanted to fulfill the entire Law which He Himself gave through the prophets and forefathers. In fulfilling the written Law, He replaced it with Baptism in His Holy Church as was proclaimed by the Apostle Paul: "For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation" (Galatians 6:15).

*"And Abraham fell on his face and worshipped the Lord. And God said unto Abraham: Thou shalt keep My covenant, thou and thy seed after thee throughout the generations. And this is My covenant...Every male among you shall be circumcised; ye shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be a token of a covenant betwixt Me and you. And the child that is eight days old shall be circumcised by you, every male throughout your generations. And the uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin on the eighth day, that soul shall be cut off from his generation, since he hath set at nought My covenant." - Genesis 17:4-7 & 9:14*

### St. Basil the Great – January 1

Basil was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences of the time. His colleagues were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years Basil was baptized in the River Jordan along with Euvlios, his former teacher. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years and completed his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God, fully deserving the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, apologetical, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him. The Divine Liturgy that is celebrated today is that of this glorious saint. It is one out of ten times throughout the year that we celebrate the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. St. Basil died peacefully on January 1, 379 A.D., when he was translated into the Kingdom of Christ.



## ↪ Receiving Holy Communion ↩

As mentioned at the last Parish Assembly and by way of weekly announcements, Holy Trinity, as of the first day of 2023, will return to the traditional method of administering Holy Communion with one spoon. We are the last of the parishes in the area to do so. The use of multiple spoons was always temporary and a reaction to the COVID Pandemic. With God's grace, the impacts of COVID-19 have diminished, and we pray for increased health for 2023.

### **Cutting of the Vasilopita on the First Day of the New Year**

One of the most beautiful and inspiring traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church is the observance of the Cutting of the Vasilopita on the first day of the New Year in honor of St. Basil the Great whom we commemorate on this day. This year we are blessed that the first day of 2023 begins on a Sunday. As the faithful of Holy Trinity, we embark on this year being doubly blessed by being in church together and receiving a piece of Vasilopita. May this year be one of grace, joy and the abundant blessings from above.

### **Holy Water Bottles – Available on Epiphany Day – Jan. 6**

After the service of the Blessing of Waters, each parishioner can take Holy Water bottles to their home. Holy Water is used to bless yourself and sanctify houses. It is a gift from the Church and should be used with piety and taken home with deep respect.

#### **Special Epiphany Gifts**

During Epiphany, you may desire to express your love by offering special gifts such as communion wine, festal icons, incense, charcoal, daily Bible guides, that can be donated in memory of or for the health of loved ones. Please call the office and thank you for your generosity.

### **House Blessings During the Epiphany Season**

If you would like to have your home blessed during the Epiphany season, please return this form to the church or contact the church office to schedule a time for Father Peter to visit your home in January.



### **EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING**

I would like to have my house blessed during the Epiphany Season.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

*I understand that I will receive a phone call from Fr. Peter to determine the date and appropriate time.*

*Return this form or call the church office (908) 233-8533*

## 2023 Stewardship Drive is Underway

Please submit your 2023 Stewardship card, by bringing or mailing it to the church office. Thank you for your support! We hope to increase the number of Stewardship cards submitted for 2023 and we can do so with your help.



**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090 • Tel. (908) 233-8533 • www.HolyTrinityWestfield.org

*"Giving Thanks: Eucharistic Stewardship"*

### 2023 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

The operating expenses of our Church for the year 2023 are estimated to be \$885,000 (or an estimated \$2,200 per family).

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's work at Holy Trinity Church in 2023 a total amount of:

\$2,200    \$3,000    \$2,000    \$1,000    Young Adults (25-30) \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*For additional information on Legacy or Planned Giving including donations of property, stock, or other securities, please contact the church office (908) 233-8533 or email HolyTrinity@htgoenj.org (see enclosed Stock/Security Donation Form)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Dependents \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please bring your Commitment Card to  
Stewardship Sunday Liturgy December 4, 2022*

To vote or seek elective office in the administration of the parish in 2023, your signed Stewardship Commitment Card must be received by March 1, 2023.

### Trinity Circle – January 3

Our Vasilopita Luncheon Celebration will be held on Tuesday, January 3, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Bouras Center. This luncheon is being donated by Avi Kiriakatis, Hellen Kiriakatis and Marina LoAlbo for a happy and healthy New Year.

### TOTS Playgroup – January 11

The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, from 9:30-11:30 AM in the preschool room. Children 18 months-Pre-K are welcome with their caregiver (younger siblings welcome!). Bring water, sneakers and a snack. Contact Val Comprelli ([vcomprelli@gmail.com](mailto:vcomprelli@gmail.com) or 612-801-8608) to sign up or to ask any questions.

### Women of Faith Ministry

There will be a study led by Fr. Peter, followed by a time of discussion, prayer and fellowship together. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Lauren Karanikolas [lkaranikolas@msn.com](mailto:lkaranikolas@msn.com) if you are interested, have any questions, or would like to be added to our email distribution list to receive weekly summaries as well as prayer requests. More details to follow.

### Fellowship Committee

The Spanakopita Cooking Class has been postponed until after the New Year so more people can attend. Stay tuned!

### Religious Education – Save the Date!

Sunday, February 12, will be this year's Community Communion Breakfast.

## Christmas for CASA

Thank you for making Christmas for CASA a success. All requests were fulfilled...and then some! Your generosity to this beloved Holy Trinity tradition is greatly appreciated.

## Greek Dance for Everyone

Holy Trinity is happy to offer Greek dance classes for all ages. Joy/Hope (grades K-6th) classes meet on Sundays at 12 noon in Rm 107; GOYA (grades 7th-12th) classes are Sundays from 1-2:30 PM. The adult Greek dance class is off to a great start! Register using the following link [Adult Greek Dance Class](#). Please stop by the GOYA table after church for more information or contact Mary Carayannopoulos ([carayannopoulos@comcast.net](mailto:carayannopoulos@comcast.net))

# Holy Trinity Capital Campaign



**We're almost there!**  
**Today's contribution will**  
**allow us to reach our goal!**

**There is still time to give!**

**We thank all our donors and**  
**benefactors**

Dear Parishioners, as we close our Capital Campaign, we want to thank our parishioners and benefactors for their generosity and support of this worthy cause in the maintenance of the physical structure of our parish. We humbly ask all those who have not yet had the opportunity to donate to please do

so that we may bring the Capital Campaign to its goal of \$750,000. Please note that all donations, of whatever amount, are welcomed. Success can only be attained through your participation and giving spirit this holiday season.

To date, we have collected \$663,564 in capital campaign donations and pledges. Considering that our campaign started only in December of 2021, this is a tremendous accomplishment.

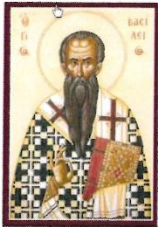
Call the church office to donate or donate online by visiting [HolyTrinityWestfield.org](http://HolyTrinityWestfield.org)



**amazon**smile

Please support Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Endowment Fund  
Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases,  
at no cost to you. [Start Shopping](#)

*The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity*



**VASILOPITA LUNCHEON  
&  
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**



**January 22, 2023**

*Immediately following Divine Liturgy, Bouras Center*

*Proceeds to benefit the Saint Basil Academy*

**RESERVED SEATING**

**RESERVATIONS DEADLINE BY JANUARY 11, 2023**

**ADULTS- \$20**

**CHILDREN 16 & under- \$10**



**Includes: Buffet Dinner, Salad, Mezethes, Wine & Dessert**

**Please mail, scan QR code or stop @ Philoptochos table to sign up**

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**RESERVATION FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Adults** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Children** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amt Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks Payable to: The Ladies Philoptochos Society of HTGOC**

**Send to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 250 Gallows Hill Rd, Westfield, NJ 07091**

**When mailing, mark envelope "Attn: Vasilopita"**

**You may pay by Zelle, Yiana Leichtling at [treasurer@htphiloptochos.com](mailto:treasurer@htphiloptochos.com)**

**(please include RSVP information with Zelle payment)**

***Debra Vlahakis & Kathy Maglaras, Co-chairs***